

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 02864 010049Z

17 11
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

DOE-00 SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EPA-04 CEQ-02 DRC-01

/171 W

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R 302345Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2214

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POUCHED ALL CONGENS IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, BEXP, CA, US
SUBJECT: CANADIAN MOTORISTS IN U.S. REPORTEDLY DENIED GASOLINE

REF: USDOC 18465 AND OTTAWA 2741

1. CANADIAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION (CAA) NOVEMBER 28
ISSUED PRESS RELEASE APPEALING TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS TO
IMMEDIATELY ADOPT AND ANNOUNCE REGULATIONS ASSURING
ADEQUATE GASOLINE TO CANADIAN MOTORISTS TRAVELLING IN
THE UNITED STATES. THIS ACTION PROMPTED BY GROWING
NUMBER OF ALARMING REPORTS THAT CANADIANS CANNOT OBTAIN GAS
IN THE U.S. OF SIGNIFICANT CONCERN TO CAA WAS REPORT
THAT GAS STATIONS ALONG ROUTE I-75 FROM DETROIT WERE
REFUSING TO SERVE CANADIAN MOTORISTS.

2. FOLLOWING NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) OTTAWA RELEASE
OF NOVEMBER 29 AMPLIFIES FOREGOING, AND INTRODUCES IT
INTO DOMESTIC CANADIAN POLITICAL ARENA:

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 02864 010049Z

BEGIN TEXT

THE HONOURABLE D. MACDONALD
MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES
OTTAWA, ONTARIO

DEAR MR. MACDONALD:

I HAVE TODAY RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM A CONSTITUTENT
THE TEXT OF WHICH IS AS FOLLOWS:

'TODAY I WAS PERMITTED TO READ A TELEGRAM ADDRESSED
TO MANITOBA MOTOR LEAGUE FROM WASHINGTON,D.C. INDICATING
THAT GASOLINE STATIONS ALONG U.S. ROUTE I75 FROM DETROIT,
MICHIGAN TO ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, ARE REFUSING TO
FURNISH CANADIANS WITH GASOLINE.STOP. DO NOT UNDERSTAND
THAT PRESIDENT NIXON PLACED A BAN ON CANADIANS ENTERING
THE UNITED STATES BY MOTOR CAR IN ORDER TO SPEND SOME OF THE
WINTER MONTHS IN THAT COUNTRY. ARE THERE ANY OTHER ROUTES
FROM CANADA SIMILARLY AFFECTED. WHAT IS THE CANADIAN
GOVERNMENT DOING IN RETAILIATION. IS THERE A RESTRICTION
AGAINST CANADIANS GOING TO SUCH STATES AS FLORIDA BY
MOTOR CAR IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE USUAL FLOURISHING BUSINESS
THAT FLORIDA ENJOYS EACH WINTER. COPY TO WINNIPEG TRIBUNE.'

A PHOTOCOPY OF THE TELEGRAM IS ATTACHED.

FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF THE TELEGRAM I CHECKED WITH THE
MANITOBA MOTOR LEAGUE WHERE IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT THE
CANADIAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION HAD ISSUED A NEWS
RELEASE IN WHICH IT WAS ASSERTED THAT A SIGNIFICANT
NUMBER OF AMERICAN SERVICE STATIONS, ESPECIALLY AT POINTS
NEAR THE CANADA BORDER, WERE REFUSING TO PROVIDE
CANADIAN MOTORISTS WITH GASOLINE.

I THEN CHECKED WITH THE CANADIAN AUTOMOBILE
ASSOCIATION WHICH INDICATED ITS SATISFACTION THAT SUCH
REPORTS WERE AUTHENTIC; THAT IT HAD ISSUED SUCH A NEWS
RELEASE; AND THAT IT WAS ENGAGED IN TALKS WITH THE
AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION IN AN EFFORT TO REGULATE
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PAGE 03 OTTAWA 02864 010049Z

THE PROBLEM.

I WOULD REQUEST THAT YOU UNDERTAKE AN INVESTIGATION
INTO THESE REPORTS AND, IF THEY PROVE TO BE CORRECT, THAT
THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT ALL POSSIBLE STEPS
BE TAKEN TO HALT THE PRACTISE.

A COPY OF THE TEXT OF THIS LETTER HAS BEEN
DISTRIBUTED TO THE NEWS MEDIA.

YOURS SINCERELY,
D.C. ROWLAND, M.P.
SELKIRK

CC: HON. M. SHARP

END OF TEXT

3. CAA RELEASE OF NOVEMBER 30 ADVISES CANADIAN MOTORISTS NOT TO TRAVEL IN U.S. ON SUNDAY, AS EFFECTIVE THIS WEEKEND LARGE NUMBER OF GASOLINE STATIONS ARE CLOSING FROM 9:00 P.M. SATURDAY TO MONDAY MORNING. CAA RELEASE FURTHER STATES THAT MOTORISTS SHOULD NOT ANTICIPATE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING GASOLINE IN THE U.S., ALTHOUGH "SOME ISOLATED SERVICE STATIONS MAY REFUSE GASOLINE TO OTHER THAN THEIR REGULAR CLIENTELE." RELEASE CITES GOVERNOR LOVE'S ASSURANCE TO CAA THAT EVERY EFFORT BEING MADE TO AVOID RATIONING IN THE U.S.; AND IF A 25 PERCENT VOLUNTARY REDUCTION COULD BE ACHIEVED IN NEXT FEW WEEKS, RATIONING OR ADDITIONAL TAXATION COULD BE AVOIDED. CAA RELEASE ALSO CITES ASSURANCES IT HAS RECEIVED THAT IF RATIONING IN THE U.S. BECAME NECESSARY, ADEQUATE LEAD TIME WOULD BE GIVEN TO ENSURE CANADIANS WOULD NOT BE STRANDED IN U.S.

4. EMBASSY AND CONSULATES GENERAL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE VERY NUMEROUS TELEPHONE (AND LETTER) INQUIRIES ABOUT SITUATION, AND TWO OF CALLERS TO EMBASSY TODAY REPORTED THAT SOME SERVICE STATIONS IN FLORIDA WERE REFUSING TO SERVE CANADIANS.

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PAGE 04 OTTAWA 02864 010049Z

5. CONSULATE GENERAL MONTREAL REPORTS THAT AUTOMOBILE TOURING CLUB IN MONTREAL INTENDS TO ADVISE ITS CLIENTS TO AVOID DRIVING TO U.S. UNTIL AND UNLESS SITUATION CLARIFIED.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. IN VIEW OF ADVERSE PR WE ARE BEGINNING TO EXPERIENCE FROM UNDOUBTEDLY ISOLATED AND UNREPRESENTATIVE INSTANCES OF REFUSALS OF GASOLINE TO CANADIANS IN U.S. AND ALSO EVIDENT EFFECT THIS IS BEGINNING TO HAVE ON CANADIANS' AUTOMOBILE TOURISM PLANS IN THE U.S. DURING UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS OFFICIAL U.S. STATEMENT: (A) DEPLORING AND TRYING TO CORRECT MISUNDERSTANDINGS RESPONSIBLE FOR ISOLATED REFUSALS OF GASOLINE TO CANADIANS; (B) STATING FACTS OF

SITUATION A LA KATZ NOVEMBER 15 APPEARANCE BEFORE HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS; AND (C) URGING THAT ALL CANADIAN AUTO TRAVELLERS IN THE U.S., WHOM WE CONTINUE TO WELCOME WARMLY, BE SERVED ON SAME BASIS AS ALL OTHER SERVICE STATION CUSTOMERS.

SCHMIDT

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